

Happy springtime! Last week, the annual Montana Association of Family & Consumer Sciences Annual Spring Conference was held in Hamilton, Montana. It sounded like a successful conference in a beautiful part of our state, and here's a great [news article](#) in the Ravalli Republic to read more about what happened during the conference. Unfortunately, I had to miss the annual conference this year and missed seeing some my colleagues. Instead, I had the opportunity to attend and present at the ACTE Region V Conference in Overland Park, KS. I presented about our Montana Math-in-CTE Trainings along with Henry Begler (Construction Teacher) and Clay Burkett (Math Teacher) from Helena High School. Henry & Clay have been a part of the Rigorous Program of Study Grant in Montana for the past four years. The three of us along with Mark Branger (Montana ACTE Executive Director) and Lyle Courtnage (Billings) are working together to make plans to continue the momentum of the Math-in-CTE and expand the training to our FCS field. Henry & Clay were introduced to our field last fall, and they've really enjoyed interacting with the FCS teachers. They think we are fun (and, we are!), and they love our excited and energy about the content covered in the trainings. Stay tuned for more information in the next year or so as we work on securing funding and making plans.

I am working as hard as possible to spread the word and find applicants for the 14 open FCS positions in our state at the moment. I have shared the openings with my contacts in other states, on Facebook, and have included more details below. Let's work together to get the word out and recruit to ensure our FCS programs don't close.

FCS Positions Available

The following schools are advertising for FCS teachers in Montana. Please share these job openings with potential applicants.

Currently posted on the OPI website:

- **Billings**
 - This position will be at the Billings Career Center, and it is full-time. The school district is looking for an industry chef, so please spread the word to any potential applicants. The position is open until filled.
 - <http://www.applitrack.com/billings/onlineapp/JobPostings/view.asp?Category=High+School+Teaching&AppliTrackJobId=1105&AppliTrackLayoutMode=detail&AppliTrackViewPosting=1>
- **Chinook**
 - This position is open due to retirement. While the advertisement says part-time or other endorsements needed, after talking to the superintendent, there's wiggle room. They believe in the FCS program so strongly that they are willing to make it full-time with a strong emphasis in Culinary Arts or help a teacher to get their traffic education endorsement (the school will cover that cost). Administrative support for a program is a huge incentive that should not be overlooked.
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/4C475F6D-3B9ACA00-036243BA>
- **Circle – NEW!**
 - I am unsure if this position is half or full time, but I do know this is the second year they have advertised to fill it. The school runs on a 4 day school week, and the position is for grades 7 – 12.
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/9F457F33-3B9ACA00-036456D9>

- **Corvallis**
 - The position is open due to retirement, and it's listed as half-time. However, depending on the applicants, it may become full-time. Don't let the half-time discourage or mislead as it's very likely it will stay a full-time position.
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/B30C5504-3B9ACA00-0363F87F>
- **Glendive**
 - This position is full-time. Please note – this position also became open a few years ago due a retirement, and they've had trouble keeping it filled since then. They have continued to advertise which means they value the program and want it put back into their high school! That is a huge benefit. It used to have an FCCLA chapter as well, so that may be part of the position. This school also boasts one of the best FCS classrooms in the state! Glendive would be a great long term position in a larger school.
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/374CD198-3B9ACA00-035F4F59>
- **Hobson**
 - This position is half-time, and it is the second year in a row for being advertised due to retirement in 2014. Again, this means they value the position, and they are still trying to find a replacement even though the program was vacant for a year. This school had a very active FCCLA chapter before the retirement.
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/32F5A56D-3B9ACA00-0362ED60>
- **Libby**
 - This is a half-time position, and this program has been small the last few years (two classes a day). The program was reduced due to a retirement a few years ago, and it's promising that they are advertising for half-time FCS instead of part-time.
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/CD1632F5-3B9ACA00-036247EB>
- **Nashua – NEW!**
 - This is a full-time position with half of it being FCS, and it's open due to retirement. Additional endorsements are preferred. This school district offers a signing bonus, and the school operates on a 4 day school week.
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/744AE1FC-3B9ACA00-03645A19>
- **Poplar**
 - This position is full-time, and they are offering a signing bonus & housing is available. Please note – this position became open a few years ago due a retirement, and they've had trouble getting it filled since then. They have continued to advertise yearly for almost 4 years . . . this means they value the program and want it put back into their high school! That is a huge benefit. It used to have an FCCLA chapter as well, so that may be part of the position.
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/02602515-3B9ACA00-03632E85>
- **Townsend**
 - This is a full-time position; the advertisement mentions other endorsements are preferred, but don't let that deter you. This position is open due to retirement, and it's in a great location. They have an FCCLA chapter as well.
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/59CA0A4C-3B9ACA00-0362CC76>
- **Wibaux – NEW!**
 - This is a full-time position, and it's open due to retirement. Wibaux offers a 4-day school week, smaller class sizes, and an active FCCLA chapter.
 - <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/53D86CE8-3B9ACA00-036498E6>

- **Wolf Point**

- This position is full-time. Please note – this position became open a quite a few years ago due a retirement, and they’ve had trouble getting it filled since then. They have continued to advertise almost yearly during the past 6-7 years, and this means they value the program and want it put back into their high school! That is a huge benefit. It used to have an FCCLA chapter as well, so that may be part of the position.
- <http://metnet.mt.gov/TPlacement/6DAA7540-3B9ACA00-0361A687>

Additional FCS available positions not posted on the OPI website:

- **Bozeman**

- This position is half-time and is the third FCS teacher in the FCS Department at Bozeman High School. This department offers ProStart, has an active FCCLA chapter, and has been steadily growing in recent years.
- <http://www.applitrack.com/bozeman/onlineapp/jobpostings/view.asp?internaltransferform.Url=&category=High+School+Teaching&AppliTrackJobId=2113&AppliTrackLayoutMode=detail&AppliTrackViewPosting=1>

- **Missoula**

- I have it on good authority that a full-time position at Hellgate High School in Missoula will be open for general applicants soon as it’s currently open for in-district applicants right now. If you think you might apply, it’d be good to get your application into the district now, and then you can ‘activate’ it once the position is open to the public.

Recruiting FCS Teachers

While there are numerous positions open to teach FCS in Montana, there aren’t as many licensed FCS teachers to fill the positions. Each year, we see schools have programs that close due to lack of interest. There are a few alternate solutions to this problem.

1. OPI Internship

- a. <http://www.montana.edu/fieldplacement/opi/index.html>
- b. Have you ever heard a current teacher say, I’d love to teach FCS? It’s possible they could by completing their endorsement through the joint MSU/OPI Internship Program. This program is available to current teachers who want to add an endorsement in a specific area while teaching in that position within a Montana school district. We have about 5 – 10 MSU/OPI interns in FCS positions around the state each year. They teach FCS while they work with MSU to finish the necessary classes to add the FCS teaching minor within a three year period. This has been a positive solution for many of our smaller communities who have had trouble finding certified FCS teachers. Perhaps there’s someone in the school district or community with a valid teaching license that might be interested in adding the FCS endorsement? We’ve found those that complete the program tend to stick in the position. Interns typically combine online and summer classes to complete the coursework. Perhaps this would be a way to fill a position in towns that aren’t receiving applicants!

2. Northern Plains Transition To Teaching

- a. <http://www.montana.edu/nptt/about/index.html>
- b. This program provides an affordable route to teacher licensure for career professionals who are interested in a transitioning into the classroom seamlessly from prior careers.

3. Class 4 Career Technical License – Culinary Arts

- a. http://opi.mt.gov/Cert/index.html#gpm1_1

- b. For those with work experience in career and technical areas, but without degrees in education. Applicants must demonstrate 10,000 hours of work experience in each area they wish to teach. Degrees, licenses and industry standard designations may be substituted for some of the work experience requirement
4. Say YES to FCS!
 - a. Both in Montana and nationally, there is a shortage of FCS teachers. We are working on a national campaign titled, "Say YES to FCS!" If we don't recruit students to become FCS classroom teachers, who will? Resources are available on www.nasafacs.org. Consider incorporating this idea into your FCS classroom each semester and showing the say YES to FCS video: <http://www.nasafacs.org/teacher-recruitment-say-yes-to-fcs.html>.

American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences 106th Annual Conference & Expo

The American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) 106th Annual Conference & Expo, ***Family & Consumer Sciences: Advancing the Field with New Technology***, is this June in Jacksonville, Florida. Each full registration includes **two exceptional keynote addresses**, including **Eric Sheninger**, senior fellow and thought leader, International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE) and Scholastic Achievement Partners (SAP) and **numerous sessions within 6-7 learning tracks**. You may be especially interested in attending sessions within these tracks: **Teaching and Learning in a Digital Age** and **Best Practices for Recruiting and Developing FCS Educators**.

While there, consider attending "Filling the Educator Pipeline: Summit for Action" all-day on Friday (additional fee of \$20; space is limited). Key decision makers are invited to learn about current recruitment initiatives and strategies at individual, state, and organizational levels and work with colleagues to create an action plan to increase and expand our educator recruitment efforts.

The AAFCS Professional Member Full Registration rate is \$590 online. This year the fee includes three meal events: "Sun & Sandals" Welcome Reception on Wednesday night, FCS "Great Conversations" Lunch on Friday, and Pacesetter Lunch on Saturday. More information and registration options are available at www.aafcs.org/meetings/15.

Escoffier Boulder (CO) Farm-To-Table Seminar

This summer, attend a Escoffier Boulder Farm-To-Table® seminar designed for teachers and counselors. Explore the philosophies and methods of sourcing ingredients from local farmers & food artisans. Dates offered include July 15-17, July 22-24, and July 29-31, 2015. Join us for an informative and fun three-day experience:

- Take a field trip to local farms/artisans on Wednesday.
- Purchase ingredients at the Boulder Farmers' Market.
- Cook a delicious meal with your colleagues using a variety of challenging techniques on Thursday and Friday.
- This workshop is available at the only school in the country with a registered Farm-To-Table® Experience.

Optional: Dinner at a Boulder farm-to-table restaurant Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m.

Seminar Cost: \$100 per participant; Each Seminar is limited to 18 participants

Reserve your place at the table! RSVP to [Chuck Stober](mailto:Chuck.Stober@montana.gov) or call 303-884-2611.

Missoula College Tips for Teachers Course June 15 – 19

Information from Missoula College regarding their annual summer Tips for Teachers class geared toward FCS teachers was sent out via email recently. It will be held June 15 – 19, 2015, and the topic this year is Food Service Sanitation. If you need more information, please visit their website at

<http://www.mc.umn.edu/outreach/>.

MyPlate Video Contest – April 30 deadline

Calling all creative and healthy kids! USA Rice and other [MyPlate partners](#) are challenging kids across the country to enter the [Check Out MyPlate Video Search](#) for a chance to win \$1,000!

Create a short video (approximately 60 seconds or less) demonstrating how to eat healthy with MyPlate and stay active every day. Get creative with the video! It can be a song, skit, or how-to-video, as long as it includes an image of MyPlate, at least one healthy eating tip, and a favorite physical activity.

Need some healthy eating tips and recipe ideas? Here are a few ways to include U.S.-grown rice in your video:

- MyPlate says half of the grains you eat should be whole grains.
 - You can add more whole grains to your plate with U.S.-grown rice! Brown, wild, black, and red rice are 100% whole grain. Try mixing whole grain rice & white rice together in your favorite dish.
- MyPlate recommends making half of your plate fruits and vegetables.
 - Rice bowls are a great way to add more fruits and veggies to your meal. Start with rice; add your favorite vegetables, fruits, and protein; then top it off with fresh herbs and seasoning - Voila!
- Here are some recipe ideas to go along with your tips:
 - [Tutti-Fruitti Rice Salad](#)
 - [Apple-Sage Wild Rice Stuffing](#)
 - [Brown Rice with Sizzling Chicken & Vegetables](#)

The [Check Out MyPlate Video Search](#) is currently open and will be accepting submissions until April 30th! To learn more and submit your entry, go to [CheckOutMyPlate.com](#).

State of Minnesota - FCS Ed Consultant Position open!

In a time when programs and positions are closing, good news has come from the State of Minnesota! The State of Minnesota is adding a new position at the State Department of Education for a FCS Education Consultant! Please share this with any interested or qualified candidates. More information can be found here:

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/c4de9cebd3c0325a9007b1ac6625c77a/View>

Thought of the Day

“We all need people who will give us feedback. That’s how we improve.”

~ Bill Gates, businessman and philanthropist

Calendar of Events

June 7 – 10, 2015: NAEYC’s [2015 National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development](#), New Orleans, LA

June 15 – 19: Missoula College Tips for Teachers Course, Missoula, MT

June 18 – 20, 2015: 11th Annual CAFÉ Leadership Conference, Niagara Falls, NY

June 24 – 27, 2015: AAFCS Annual Conference & Expo, Jacksonville, FL

July 5 – 9, 2015: FCCLA National Leadership Conference, Washington, DC

July 27 – 31: MSU/OPI Summer FCS Conference, Bozeman, MT – Information coming soon!

October 14, 2015: OPI CTE New Teacher Training, Billings, MT

October 15 – 16, 2015: Montana ACTE Fall Institute, Billings, MT

October 28 – 30, 2015: [National Career Pathways Network Annual Conference](#), Dallas, TX

Facebook Group Links

Please click on the link and ask to be added for some great conversation & resources:

- ✓ Montana FCS Educators Group: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/168470129878554/>
- ✓ Montana FCCLA Chapter Advisers Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/248102661886036/>

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